

By: Perry

S.B. No. 1206

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the governor's broadband council.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subtitle F, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 490H to read as follows:

CHAPTER 490H. GOVERNOR'S BROADBAND COUNCIL

Sec. 490H.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Broadband" means a service that provides advanced telecommunications capability and Internet access.

(2) "Council" means the governor's broadband council.

Sec. 490H.002. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION. (a) The governor's broadband council is established in the office of the governor.

(b) The council is composed of the following 15 voting members:

(1) two representatives of unaffiliated Internet service providers, appointed by the governor;

(2) one representative of a nonprofit organization that advocates for elderly persons statewide, appointed by the governor;

(3) two representatives of unaffiliated nonprofit organizations that have a demonstrated history of working with the legislature and the public to identify solutions for expanding broadband to rural and underserved areas of this state, appointed

1 by the governor;

2 (4) one representative of an agricultural advocacy  
3 organization in this state, appointed by the governor;

4 (5) one representative of a hospital advocacy  
5 organization in this state, appointed by the governor;

6 (6) one representative of a medical advocacy  
7 organization in this state, appointed by the governor;

8 (7) one county official who serves in an elected  
9 office of a county with a population of less than 35,000, appointed  
10 by the governor;

11 (8) one municipal official who serves in an elected  
12 office of a municipality with a population of less than 20,000 that  
13 is located in a county with a population of less than 60,000,  
14 appointed by the governor;

15 (9) one representative of an institution of higher  
16 education who has published scholarly research on broadband,  
17 appointed by the governor;

18 (10) two members of the house of representatives,  
19 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

20 (11) two members of the senate, appointed by the  
21 lieutenant governor.

22 (c) A member of the council appointed under Subsection (b)  
23 serves for a five-year term.

24 (d) A vacancy on the council is filled in the same manner as  
25 the original appointment.

26 Sec. 490H.003. PRESIDING OFFICER. The governor shall  
27 designate the presiding officer of the council from among the

1 members of the council.

2 Sec. 490H.004. MEETINGS. (a) The council shall convene at  
3 least once every quarter.

4 (b) The council shall convene at the call of the presiding  
5 officer.

6 Sec. 490H.005. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT. The governor's  
7 office shall provide administrative support to the council.

8 Sec. 490H.006. DUTIES. The council shall:

9 (1) research the past and present development of  
10 broadband in areas that are currently underserved and unserved with  
11 broadband;

12 (2) identify barriers to residential and commercial  
13 broadband access in this state and to broadband development in this  
14 state and study solutions to overcome the identified barriers; and

15 (3) analyze how statewide access to broadband would  
16 benefit:

17 (A) economic development;

18 (B) the delivery of educational opportunities in  
19 higher education and public education;

20 (C) state and local law enforcement;

21 (D) state emergency preparedness;

22 (E) the delivery of health care services,  
23 including telemedicine and telehealth; and

24 (F) any other matter related to the subject of  
25 broadband that a majority of the council members deem appropriate  
26 to research.

27 Sec. 490H.007. ANNUAL REPORT. Not later than November 1 of

1 each year, the council shall prepare and deliver a report in  
2 electronic format of its findings and recommendations to the  
3 governor, the lieutenant governor, and each member of the  
4 legislature.

5 Sec. 490H.008. EXPIRATION. This chapter expires September  
6 1, 2029.

7 SECTION 2. A report required under Section 490H.007,  
8 Government Code, as added by this Act, is not required to be  
9 prepared or submitted for the first time before November 1, 2020.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.